

Summer 304

Dioctrian struggled with
his illness

AD 304

Hsiung-nu (Huns) invade China

April 304

By the time the last anti-christian edict was issued, in Apr. 304, Diocletian was already in poor health.

304 - 309

304th Pope - St. Marcellus I
Rome, martyr. Insisted that
Councils needed the approbation
of the Holy See.

April 304

A final edict commanded all Christians, clergy and laity alike, to offer sacrifice, or pain of death.

The anti-Christian measures were enforced to varying degrees in different parts of the empire. The Western provinces, under the control of Maximian and Constantius, were scarcely affected. In the East, however, Diocletian & Galerius presided over persecution on a grand scale, as Christians who refused to recant were

tortured and killed. Christian writers placed the blame squarely at the door of Galerius, who they described as 'more evil than all the evil men who have ever lived'. They claimed that ~~WICOME~~ DIA during winter of 302-303 Galerius argued long & hard for an anti-Christian campaign, and that after some hesitation Diocletian reluctantly agreed. It is completely nevertheless to completely absolve Diocletian from responsibility for the great persecution with lurid tales of beatings, burnings & Christians thrown to the lions.

AD 304

out of the grasslands of central Asia galloped new raiders, the Huns driven by drought and lured by a chance to profit from imperial decay. The original Huns spoke the language of Paleo-Siberian fisherman, but they made a confederacy with other nomads of the steppes who spoke Altai and Indo-European languages. Horses had improved greatly and the newly invented stirrups made the mounted archers deadly.

the Huns invaded China 304AD
and took the capital Lo-Yang seven years
later

304 AD

The Actor Gennadius dies a martyr's death during a performance
in Rome

Dec 304

Diocletian collapsed in his palace at NICOMEDIA. He was expected to die, but the illness persuaded him to abdicate and return to spend his last years in the magnificent palace he had built for himself at SPALATO (Split), on the Adriatic coast. For the plan to work it was essential for Maximian to abdicate.